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**PANAMA'S SECESSION FROM COLOMBIA A LEGAL ACT.**  
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A proposed expression of regret from the United States Government for its recognition of the Republic of Panama raises the question whether the secession of Panama from Colombia was or was not a legal act.  
The federation of the United States of Colombia was formed December 17, 1819, and its constitution promulgated July 12, 1820. At that time the Isthmus of Panama, a separate Spanish administrative department, was still under Spanish control.  
In November, 1821, the Isthmus of Panama revolted, the Spanish garrison and set up an independent state. In so doing it received no Colombian assistance. Subsequently, of its own volition and reserving its sovereign rights, it federated with the states of Colombia. In 1830 Panama warned the Colombian Government that the illegal assumption of autocratic power by Bolivar would force it to resume its separate existence and this decision was only modified by Bolivar's resignation of the Presidency in that year. In 1841, after five years of civil war, an Isthmian convention met at Panama and voted to separate from the federation and to resume independent sovereign rights. Under this resolution the Isthmus remained independent for about a year, when it rejoined the federation on the promise of promulgation of a new constitution that should recognize its rights. Two constitutions adopted in 1843 and 1853 were unsatisfactory and caused continuous insurrection on the Isthmus. Finally, by an amendment to the constitution of New Granada in 1855 Panama was recognized as a sovereign state, while all the other provinces remained in direct control of the central Government. In 1858 this amendment was confirmed by the promulgation of a new constitution creating the Granadine Confederation, and constituting a group of sovereign states federated for limited purposes, but otherwise independent and possessing at all times the rights of nullification and secession. In 1860 several of the states of this federation, including Panama, adopted ordinances of secession, and the President of the republic recognized their right to do so in addressing the President of the State of Panama as follows:  
"I trust that in reply to this letter you will advise me that the State of Panama is still in union with the others and that you will send your plenipotentiary to take part in the congress, the convocation of which I have communicated to you."  
In September, 1861, a new agreement of federation signed by the President of the State of Panama and the commissioners plenipotentiary of the United States of New Granada contained the following special reservations:  
Article I. The sovereign State of Panama shall be incorporated into the new national entity which is called the United States of New Granada, and shall continue in consequence to form one of the federal sovereign States which compose the said entity, and with the specific reservations and conditions expressed in the following article.  
Article II. . . . the said State to be hereby incorporated with the United States as mentioned, but the State reserves to its sovereignty reserves to itself the right to refuse its approval to the said new pact, and to the constitution which may be drawn up whenever in its judgment it may violate the autonomy of the State.  
This agreement was ratified by the legislative assembly of Panama, October 15, 1861, with the following stipulation:  
The President of the State is hereby authorized, in order to reconstitute the republic, to incorporate the said State therein, always provided that it shall be accorded the same concessions as set forth in the agreement of September 6 last.  
The rights of nullification and secession recognized in the constitutional amendment of 1855, the constitution of 1858 and the agreement of 1861 were never relinquished by the citizens of Panama, and the terms of this agreement of 1861 were included in the Colombian constitution of 1863. But notwithstanding this fact, a new constitution promulgated in 1885 by executive decree, and in violation of the procedure of amendment defined in previous constitutions, purported to terminate those rights and to reduce the Isthmus of Panama to the status of a crown colony without representation in the national congress; and it was held in involuntary subjection by overbearing garrisons of the national army stationed in the Isthmian cities by order of the executive at Bogota.  
The act of secession adopted by the citizens of Panama in popular assembly November 3, 1903, was therefore a reassertion of legal rights maintained since the independence of Panama was achieved by its citizens in 1821, and in the meantime on numerous occasions asserted by Panama, acknowledged by the Colombian Government and never relinquished by the citizens of Panama;

and the recognition of the independence of the Republic of Panama was, as Secretary Root wrote to Colombian Minister Mendoza in 1906, a recognition of the just rights of the people of Panama. We assert that the State of Panama, independent in its origin and by nature and history a separate political community, was federated with the other States of Colombia upon terms which preserved and continued its separate sovereignty; that it never surrendered that sovereignty; that in the year 1855 the pact which bound it to the other States of Colombia was broken and terminated by Colombia, and the Isthmus was subjugated by force; that it was held under foreign domination to which it had never consented; that it was justly entitled to assert its sovereignty and demand its independence from a rule which was unlawful, oppressive and tyrannical.  
It would appear that the recognition of the Republic of Panama was an act for which the United States should take credit to itself in expounding the cause of an oppressed people, and for which it owes the Government of Colombia no apology or reparation.  
WILFRED H. SCHOFF.  
PHILADELPHIA, July 15.

**More Mexican Anxieties.**  
The alleged threat of General HUERTA "to organize a general Latin American uprising against American policies" need not cause us any great alarm. The international influence of a de-throned dictator is not apt to be great and the most powerful elements in Latin America have sufficiently identified themselves with our policy in Mexico to neutralize so far as they are concerned any hostile sentiment of the kind that HUERTA would like to brew.  
More serious is his talk of a counter revolution in Mexico, though here again he himself may be regarded as almost a negligible factor. Probably it is only too true that the counter revolution will be started, perhaps at once, before the Constitutionalists are fairly ensconced in power. How formidable it may be it would be hard to guess. There are wealthy and powerful interests within and without Mexico which may be expected to give it effective support.  
But there is little likelihood that the fallen provisional President will be called to lead it. He has shot his bolt and missed his mark. He showed no small capacity for rulership. His government in the sphere he controlled was admirable, all things considered. But the hopeless military weakness of his regime was fatal not only to it but, we should think, to his future chances as the leader of a fighting expedition, even in spite of some military successes during the Madero interlude.  
For the moment, however, all eyes as regards General HUERTA's activities or those of the faction he represents in Mexican politics are subordinate to anxiety over the attitude of our allies, the Constitutionalists. The appalling prospect of vindictive bloodshed and reckless spoliation which their triumph offers causes great and well grounded alarm in Washington. This peril has indeed been evident enough from the beginning. Wholesale vengeance on the enemies of the late Madero Government and repudiation of all acts and liabilities of the Huertistas have been openly threatened. Innumerable acts of General VILLA, the dominating figure among the victors, have shown that the threats were not empty words.  
The impending difficulty has been conveniently ignored or minimized during the progress of the struggle. Now it suddenly looms up ahead in desperate reality and breathless urgency.

**An Indictment of Golf.**  
As the "Royal and Ancient Game" is dearer to myriads of Englishmen than the glories and traditions of their empire and of more concern to them than the domestic institutions they praise in lucid intervals, it must require a high degree of courage to tell the truth about golf as a bond slave to it does in the *English Review* for July. This man reveals in his shame, and the wonder is that he nerved himself to expiate his guilt by a confession that will bring down upon him the anathemas of his countrymen. But he could not screw his heroism to the point of signing the article. Perhaps that was not to be expected, unless he was ready to become a social outcast. On the contrary, he wants to go on playing golf, or talking or dreaming about it, until he draws his last breath. He says, and he speaks for the whole tribe of obsessed victims:  
"For two days at least every week, wife, kids, public or domestic, cease to exist; I simply don't care a damn what havoc the furies do to pictures, statues, churches or any other works of art, what the Government does, what anybody else, my 'approaches' are all to me, my 'screamer' straight down the course, my long stop iron shots and my work on the greens."  
The poor fellow owns thirty-four drivers, sixteen brassies, three cleeks, seven spoons, twenty-two irons, four mashes and ten putters. He has taken "no serious interest in politics or affairs for quite five years," and he even neglects love, which he realizes is "the greatest of all indoor sports." For golf alone he lives, and there is never a waking moment when he is not thinking of it, while his sleep is no longer dreamless. The wife of his bosom pines him, although deploring his infatuation; friends not in the game's thrall jeer at him; and his physician tells him that "neurasthenia is a pathological symptom" of golf. The hapless man admits his condition:  
"I have been nearer to an outburst of hysterical weeping on the links than at any other time in life. Clubs all over the country are hospitals of neurasthenia. In the dormy houses tears are as near as laughter."  
It must have been in a moment of honest introspection that "4 at Walton Heath" decided to paint golf as it was, in its true colors against a sombre background. "I know," he says, "at least a dozen men who have ruined their careers through golf." This is to put golf in the same category with familiar causes that blight a man's life.

It seems an awful indictment. On the other hand, does golf by stimulation of the intellect promote the material welfare of any man and point the way to fame? No, "4 at Walton Heath" says that "only a man with a wooden temperament can ever hope to excel in a game which demands mechanical precision," and that "the deadening effect on players is indisputable." He declares that "to say that golf is good for the intelligence is absurd." One can therefore imagine a man whom nature designed to be a Prime Minister deteriorating to a stagnation of faculties suited to loafing on the links and to nothing else. It is a favorite idea with the fraternity that golf is a character builder, but this informant says:  
"If you want to find out the temper of a man play golf with him. I have seen cultivated men, men of learning and high intelligence, men in savage public positions, behave like savages or lunatics, and sometimes I behave like it myself."  
Any one who plays knows the awful solemnity, the ludicrous pompousness, the businesslike silliness, the important fussiness of golfers, who appear to have no sense of humor, no generosity, no kindness, no manners left."  
What answer can be made to this arraignment: "The worst of it is golf destroys a man's interest in scenery, society, travel, reading and all intellectual recreation"? We have heard it testified that ornithologists, botanists and other lovers of nature lost interest in the birds, the plants and the pleasures of the pathless woods once they submitted to the intoxicating tyranny of golf. We actually know of an estimable gentleman who killed without a qualm two innocent meadow larks with a driven ball as they flew across the course, and his was a sense of elation into which pity entered not at all. Golf, says our bitter analyst, is anti-social: "We men have the slight of a skirt—it spoils our game." Worse is to come: "As for courage, to pretend that golf teaches men courage is nonsense." Of course the golfer can take his beating like a man (sometimes he doesn't), but "then that applies to draughts also." In fact, golf cannot develop the fighting qualities, or stir "to noble thoughts, to deeds of heroism, adventure, self-sacrifice or any other idea much beyond the parochialism of the game." The educational value of golf is flatly denied: as well say that billiards, which also requires a nice touch and close application, is educational. The true artist, the man of creative power, never succumbs to golf, we are told. And then there is this crushing finale:  
"Man apes in golf what science apes in humanity. The cinema copies us; we try on the links to copy the machine."

**Something Doing.**  
The dear old, high old, frequently jerky old voice rings and cracks once more. Lambert fires of St. Elmo, the Great Twin Brethren visible, luminous manifestations of Dr. Amory and Mr. Perkins, play harmlessly on the peaks and porches of Sagamore. The wires hum, the leaves chant, the cocks crow, the horses whinny "Onward, Christian Soldiers!" If the oysters of Oyster Bay are speechless in this concert of decent citizens, 'tis from admiration, not reticence. Little drops of kindness, keep on falling! Thou still art true, familiar old falsetto:  
"Utterly tricky and insincere."  
"A hopelessly timid weakling."  
The molluscoides maxixe with the mulefishers of great wealth. Seven hundred and ninety-five thousand three hundred and thirty-three active members of the largest club in the world repeat the beautiful hymn beginning: "Sons of ANANIAS, our word is on the bias, Unblushingly we lie, as T. R. remarks."  
Yes, the innocent little peccary is irritated again and he is biting tea-cups.  
**Cancellation.**  
The good sense on both sides which promises to avert a disastrous railroad strike in the West will meet with general friendly appreciation. The whole country hopes that the negotiations in progress through the Federal Board of Conciliation will result successfully.  
This difficulty threatened to cripple ninety-eight roads west of Chicago and to throw 55,000 men out of work. In these troubled days, when business is trying to get on its feet despite many difficulties, it would have been a pity if such a complex and far reaching injury had been inflicted without an honest effort at settlement.  
Now SULLIVAN won't step aside. Well, if he prefers to be walked over—

**Moose secrets to come out—Headline.**  
Again that "dope sheet" of Brooklyn captains. But what can be secret about it? Surely the party of the people can't be hiding anything from itself.  
A Mississippi Congressman, Mr. WITHERSPOON, has jarred Washington by returning four days pay, \$82.20, because he was not perspiring in the House in performance of his duties. It appears he has heard of a dim statute somewhere in the books which forbids a Congressman to draw pay for days of absence. The gentleman's earthly popularity will not be enhanced by his scrupulous conduct, whatever the recording angel may do about it. Apparently appreciating this, he tried to conceal his good deed. But the Washington atmosphere is unfavorable to secrecy and now the honest Mississippiian goes among his outraged colleagues with bowed head and furtive glances. His bad example has caused many bitter gibes, but it is not feared that there will be a large crop of imitators.  
The officers and members of the United Irish League are concerned lest the expression attributed to a lady who is a Leagueer though not of the National Committee, "Bullets for Queen Mary," should be taken seriously by some of their critics. It is naturally distasteful to our Hibernal friends that any one should think they were making war on

a woman, or indeed that their efforts were directed against any individual whatever.  
Of course the words were uttered in jest, and as it was a woman who uttered them half the sting is already removed. It is hardly probable that an Irishman would use them even in jest. The gallantry of the race is not more a tradition but a fact. It is also generally recognized that the cause for which the Irish League is fighting is a national and not a personal one. In the heat of battle strong language is often used on adversaries, but the commander, there is none more ready to fraternize with his man than the Celt.  
The League are also sensitive lest the idea should be entertained that their organization embraces only Catholics. Mr. MICHAEL J. RYAN writes to THE SUN to point out that it embraces both Catholics and Protestants. This fact is broadly understood. Indeed, as one can never think of the home rule cause without recalling PARNELL, it proves itself.

It would be a sad miscarriage of justice if a convicted white slave were permitted to marry his victim as the law of reducing his punishment. What would be the later life of the unhappy woman? These cases of the absolute commercial type leave room for neither sentiment nor mercy.  
CHARLES H. DUELL, Jr., has now discovered that "Blessed are the peacemakers" is not one of the beatitudes of contemporary politics.  
The news that there is a war of prices in the rare book trade will hardly be encouraging to amateurs, for it is not a contest of cutting but of boosting prices. However, there is no need for patient collectors to despair. Books so long as they remain in private libraries are never immune from the hammer of the auctioneer, and fashion and favor vary with them as in the case of pictures. Some few supreme things will mount in price until they disappear from the market into public institutions, but the occasional favorite which is knocked down to-day for nearly its weight in bank bills may perhaps be picked up in time for a mere dollar on the miscellaneous shelves of some dusty second hand shop.

**The Escaped Gyanasus.**  
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: From the corner of my eye I saw that I have dealt the Dominie of Lyndonville a heavy blow in the spitzcrinkum. The gyanasus has escaped. Well, Lyndonville is just one of those bursers where I do not care to go. I have been on the hillsides. After all, that "guy" Stephenson is not "as cute" as he thinks he "is," but the honorableness of his climb down those Green Mountains does justice to his sense of humor. May I suggest that if the gyanasus, gyanasus, gyanasus, or, as it was better known in the pre-Noahian period, the gyanasus, is still at large, a pinch of Attila's carefully doctored powder, or a dragoon's mule, might be sufficient to bring it to its capture.  
As for the spelling, yes, "any old combination of letters" is allowed to do duty as a word. The Simple Spellers say spell as you please, even as to gyanasus. The Dominie asks: "Why distinct errors of the Bard of Avoyn?" Because that which we have decided error in his time has become accepted as standard English in ours. Take, for example, the split infinitive. Not only old Shakespeare use it, but Noyl, long before him, and, sin others, too, double ended boat with lea. Thomas Browne, De Poe, Dr. Samuel Johnson, Burns, Burke, Byron, Lamb, Macaulay, Ruskin and Herbert Spencer, and he refers most eloquently to the value of female influence on the rising generation. Permit me to congratulate Mrs. Whitehouse on having gained so distinguished a pupil and follower.  
NEW YORK, July 17. EDWARD MORRIS.

**The Long Island Roads.**  
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have had the pleasure of motoring over many of the roads of Long Island, and in general, I have found them safer and in better condition than the average of roads in New York State.  
I would like, however, to call attention to what is a veritable death trap on the main South road. This danger point is a bridge over the Long Island Railway at Good Ground, between Shinnecock and Quogue. This bridge is approached from either end by more than a right angle. It is of flimsy construction with a guard rail of twenty feet. Marks on the railings show that they must have been hit at least once in the last two weeks.  
It is impossible to approach this bridge with safety at more than ten miles an hour, although the danger cannot be seen until close upon it. There are no signs of warning.  
CHARLES N. EDGE.  
EAST HAMPTON, L. I., July 18.

**Seeing the White Mountains.**  
From the Berlin Independent.  
Last Thursday evening Dr. J. P. St. Germain and guests, Dr. J. P. St. Germain, Mr. and Mrs. George T. Macomber and daughter, Miss Alice, of New Bedford, motored to the Mt. Madison Hotel at Gorham where through the courtesy of Mr. Drew, they had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Harry K. Thaw.  
Mr. Thaw, who was just about to enjoy a gathering of his friends, postponed the same and came to the parlors, where the party were introduced to him and had a pleasant visit.  
Mr. St. Germain's guests left Saturday for their homes in New Bedford, during their stay here they enjoyed many delightful trips through the mountains, and all were delighted with the beautiful scenery of this section of the country.  
**Bubbles.**  
Shattered in the primal Warfare in the heavens, Lo, the holy spirit, in manifold incarnate, Lives in myriad fragments.  
Prisoned, bound, and hapless In discordant bodies, Awaiting its second birth, Unto, as the rivers Seek again the ocean.  
So in homes and cities Drawn by strong attraction Men foregather, blindly Seeking one another, In pathetic discord.  
For the flesh discevers And the spirit prays; Bound, though never yielding, Drawing men together.  
Till the carnal housings Weaker grow and finer, With the strain of living And like long blown bubbles, Burst at last asunder.  
So the priest and sinner, Orit of life and living, Mingles with the ether, With all other spirit, And is one forever!  
M. B. BRIDGES.

**AN OLD EDITION OF GOETHE.**  
Reflections on the Perfect Bookmaking of a Century Ago.  
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Allow me to thank you for giving me the location of the "Weltkind." I took down my Goethe last night and found the long forgotten "Dine zu Coblenz." The pleasure of reading it again was all the greater for the form in which it was presented; and I fell to musing over the book as a book. My copy of twenty volumes, in a Cotta of 1815, therefore necessarily incomplete. In spite of its hundred years it is the most perfect specimen of the bookmaker's art among all the books I possess. It is printed on fine paper, but not too thin, and without a trace of discoloration. The type is clear and well spaced, the ink as black as when it was spread on the galley a century ago.  
Above all, the binding, unpretentious as it is, puts to shame every other book on my shelves. In the whole set not a single leaf is loosened, not a back separated from a spine, even one of the silk ribbon place markers remains attached to its particular volume.  
Are, I wonder, any books printed and put together so perfectly in these days? Doubt fills my soul; but, on reflection, why deplore the frail constitution of any modern "best seller"? Our innocent posterity surely deserves some consideration, not to say protection, along that line.  
A. E. S.  
BROOKLYN, July 18.

**WASTE OF WOOD.**  
In Julian Heats a Lover of His Fellow Foresters Distresses of December.  
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Somebody needs to consider the ant and the grasshopper. These are hot days, but the snows will come. Then will be apparent the wickedness of waste that treasurers as a rule do not consider beside the railroad tracks of piles of discarded ties.  
Only the other day in crossing Jersey in a Pennsylvania train I found the discomforts of the day augmented by waves of heat from hundreds of cords of the firewood cracking at the side of the roadbed. There was enough to keep a hundred families warm all winter; and a similar destruction of useful material is going on in other places beyond numbering.  
Of course this good stuff is burned in rather inaccessible spots, but there is irony in the sight of its unprofitable disposition within a dozen miles of the means of transportation to sites of usefulness. Perhaps it would be too much to ask of the railroads that they should indulge in charity to the extent needed to send a cord of flats along a line with a car to pick up this valuable material and carry it to the cities; but should not the attention of charitable organizations be drawn to this possible source of not untapped but actually destroyed wealth?  
Why the waste? PERKINS.  
TRENTON, N. J., July 18.

**Secretary Bryan's Indebtedness to Mrs. Whitehouse.**  
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The statement on votes for women given out by William J. Bryan will be entirely gratifying to supporters of woman suffrage. If Mr. Bryan could be regarded as a real convert to the woman's side it would seem that his position is the result of an earnest study of the numerous brilliant articles on the subject by Mrs. Norman H. Whitehouse in THE SUN. The objections to votes for women predicted by the attributions ants are swept aside by the Secretary of State with the arguments used by Mrs. Whitehouse, and the replies to the objections of "man and woman" life being already full of care the addition of suffrage would overburden her, he uses almost the phraseology used by Mrs. Whitehouse. The exercise of the franchise, says Mr. Bryan, "might result in a change of thought and occupation that would relieve the monotony of woman's work and give a restful variety to her activities." Mrs. Whitehouse demonstrates that woman has risen, instead of suffering degradation, by the opening to her of the advantages of higher education, and she refers eloquently to the value of female influence on the rising generation. Permit me to congratulate Mrs. Whitehouse on having gained so distinguished a pupil and follower.  
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**Seeing the White Mountains.**  
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M. B. BRIDGES.

**Restaurant Inspection.**  
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: When you eat in an ordinary restaurant you are liable at any time to get poisoned. Why does not the city appoint inspectors to visit the places every day, or occasionally, to see that their stuff is all right?  
NEW YORK, July 15. E. H. JONES.  
**Cuckoo!**  
The woman's hour has struck, We hear the merry chime, And see the proud hen pop From out the clock of Time.

**THE PARIS OPERA.**  
Tribulations of Its Present Management—Coming Reign of M. Rouché.  
PARIS, July 16.—What shall be done with the Opera? This is the question every Parisian and probably every stranger staying in Paris is asking himself just now. What can we do for it and with it?  
The situation is this: Messrs. Messager and Broussier, the present managers, cannot possibly go on till the end of their privilege, which expires on December 31 next. At that date, their contract being at an end and having not been renewed, they must leave the place and make room for the new manager, M. Jacques Rouché.  
The management of the French Opera House, or the Académie Nationale de Musique et de Danse, is officially styled, is a very peculiar sort of business. The building is a national property. It is given, free of charge, for seven years to the manager or managers appointed by the Minister of Public Instruction, subject to his or their signing and accepting certain conditions concerning the number of new operas that shall be produced every year, the rights of the lower personnel, &c., and also the deposit of a guarantee fund which amounts to 400,000 francs, warranting the due fulfillment of the contract.  
This was done six years and a half ago by M. Messager and M. Broussier, the former a well known composer who has been in the pulpit in the French Opera Comique and at the London Covent Garden, the latter of lesser renown but a political friend of the then Minister of Instruction and Beaux-Arts, M. Briand. Their appointment having been officially decreed, they organized a company for the exploitation of the Opera and began business on January 1, 1908, succeeding M. de Caillat, who had managed the Académie Nationale de Musique during two successive terms of seven years.  
The beginning of the undertaking was rather difficult. One year was scarcely over when Messager and Broussier found it necessary to increase their capital. It was brought up to 2,000,000 francs and then things went on calmly.

The Opera is a big and expensive business. The receipts must amount at least to 17,000 francs for every performance. The schedule requires four performances every week. To meet the heavy expenditure, which is constantly increasing owing to the enormous prices paid to all singers of renown, the managers and the shareholders had two principal sources of revenue, namely, the annual payments of the subscribers to the boxes and the pit seats. But these were far from sufficient and the average receipts have been scarcely over 13,000 or 14,000 francs, leaving therefore an average loss of 3,000 or 4,000 francs four times a week.  
Some nights, it is true, were far more successful. The performances of "Parsifal," for instance, have been quite remunerative. The first nights, with an increased tariff, and even the others have left a good margin of profit, but this temporary flow of gold and banknotes into the cash box has only postponed and not arrested the final failure; this is the point we have come to.  
The capital of the company has nearly vanished. In a few days Messager and Broussier will be unable to pay the salaries of the formidable personnel of the Opera if things are left in the present state, and the Opera will have to be shut. The two managers have appealed to the Minister. They have asked to be released from the obligations of their contract, which blind them up to the end of the year.

Will the Minister do it?  
He can refuse outright the request of Messrs. Messager and Broussier, but he cannot compel them to go on. His only recourse against them would be to seize the guarantee fund, and to use that sum and what remains due on the subvention which is paid monthly and which amounts to 800,000 francs a year, to run the Opera with an official manager. This was done a few months ago in the case of the Odéon when the director, M. Antoine, found himself in such circumstances that he was obliged to withdraw; but the failure there was complete and it would probably be complete at the Opera.  
The Minister may also appeal to M. Rouché and ask him to take up the management of the Opera at once. But it is very doubtful if M. Rouché would accept such a proposal. His position is quite different from that of Messager and Broussier, or from that of any of his predecessors. He has no shareholdings and it is his own money that he risks in the adventure he is undertaking. For M. Rouché is a rich man.  
Formerly an artillery officer, he retired after marrying Mile. Piver, the only daughter of a well known perfumer; and he enjoys a big income. He took a fancy to the theatre a few years ago and has been in the line of an amateur artist, quite a small establishment, where he has generously lost, without any prospect of profit, some hundreds of thousands of francs. He knows what losing money in the theatrical business is, and he must also know that the management of an opera house is a very costly and never highly lucrative adventure. He has seen what has just happened to the Opera company, the Théâtre des Champs Elysées, and he has seen how things are going on in all the great European capitals which he has visited during the last months and where the accounts are regularly squared from the private purse of the sovereigns or by means of subscriptions, a funds perdue made by rich amateurs. He surely knows, therefore, that his management will probably cost him his seven years' salary, or some sum like that, and he will have to assume the consequences.

What then shall the Opera House? This seems impossible for every one. We in Paris could not dream of the great Garnier monument without light or life for six months.  
What can be done? Some have thought that perhaps Messrs. Messager and Broussier would agree to remain for six months more if the Minister consented to authorize them to use the guarantee fund and if their shareholders agreed to lose two or three hundred thousand francs more. This will perhaps be the outcome of the present situation.  
At all events we shall not have long to wait. The Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts, who has been away at Guernsey, will be back the Victor Hugo monument is dedicated the next week we shall know what is to become of the Opera from now until January 1, 1915, when the reign of M. Jacques Rouché will begin.  
CHARLES GRANDJEAN.

**Purifying of Bronx River.**  
"As a result, the waters of the Bronx River are purer than for many years past, and with the acquisition of all of the lands in the reservation, the river will be largely restored to its original condition." This is the statement of the various parcels is vested in the commission, an advertising and other flimsy structures of light character are removed, and more substantial buildings are advertised for sale by public bidding and disposed of as soon as possible; sources of pollution and open sewers have been ferreted out and eliminated, and the city has been discharging into the Bronx River have been compelled to arrange connections with the Bronx Valley sewer.  
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**ACCUSED HIT BACK IN BRONX PARKWAYROW**  
Commissioners Say Greedy Land Owners Are Behind Charges.  
DENY DELAY TO GLYNN  
Report Rapid Progress—Tell of Persons Seeking Unjust Prices for Land.  
The Bronx Parkway Commissioners, whose removal was demanded in a complaint to Gov. Glynn two weeks ago on the ground that they had dawdled over their task of turning the Bronx River valley into a public park and stopping the river's pollution, have filed with the Governor their annual report, wherein they say they have worked steadily, have accomplished a great deal and by buying land direct from the owners have saved a lot of money and of time which otherwise would be wasted in condemnation delays.  
The commissioners are Madison Grant, lawyer; James G. Cannon, banker, and William W. Niles, lawyer. Their report fills a book of 119 pages, containing many pictures contrasting the former unhealthiness of the river banks with the present appearance in parts of the valley already improved.  
They say that their chief difficulty has been with land owners who demand extravagant prices which the commission will not pay.

**Blame Land Owners for Charges.**  
It is these owners who, in the opinion of the commissioners, are behind the charges which were sent to Gov. Glynn by Frank J. Becker, Isaac W. Warner and George L. Miles from White Plains.  
"They assume," says the report, "that the Parkway is a public improvement and their holdings absolutely essential for its development. While those in the class and of the number who often hold property under fictitious names, their attitude is generally antagonistic and various unsuccessful efforts have been made to encourage them to sell. The commission is of the opinion that they would force an abandonment of the present policy with regard to the acquisition of land."  
These efforts will not prevail. An enormous amount of money has been paid to the taxpayers by adherence to the commission's present policy, and it is believed that a new standard of efficiency and economy has been set in the acquisition of land.

The commission points out that until June 5, 1913, it was unable to begin definite negotiations for lands, because the constitution of the Legislature to a reduction of the area, demanded by the Board of Estimate, was not obtained until that date. Therefore, although the board was appointed by Gov. Hughes in 1907, it was not until June 5, 1913, that it began its work. In thirteen months ago, since then it has acquired 322 parcels of real estate at a cost of \$2,525,000.  
By buying private land at standard values fixed by disinterested real estate experts, the commission says, it has not only got the land cheaply, but has avoided the waste in counsel fees and other expenses, which attend condemnation proceedings and the method of direct purchase, says the report, has been greatly appreciated by owners who were willing to accept fair prices.

**Comparison to Prove Celibacy.**  
The board points out that condemnation proceedings frequently prolonging their sittings for years, seldom appraise more than 100 parcels of land, whereas there are 1,260 parcels in the Parkway and already 392 have been purchased. The report says:  
"The commission has endeavored to be fair to the owners and avoid taking advantage of the utter stagnation of values along the route of the proposed Parkway. It has been tedious of obtaining full value for the city and county. Many complaints have been received from owners who stated they were unable to accept the prices offered. The commission has generally conceded that considering the character of the lands involved and the fact that if purchased they are paid for in all cash the prices offered are equitable."  
The board also points out that the commission has proceeded to put each parcel in an entirely clean and sanitary condition. The river has been cleaned up and extensive forested land has been planted with trees, leaving the native growth in healthy condition. A nursery has been established on a small scale to ascertain the best method of raising trees and shrubs. As fast as acquired, the banks of the river have been cleaned and all nuisances and objectionable features removed.  
The commission has also compelled the removal of signs as soon as title to the various parcels is vested in the commission; an advertising and other flimsy structures of light character are removed, and more substantial buildings are advertised for sale by public bidding and disposed of as soon as possible; sources of pollution and open sewers have been ferreted out and eliminated, and the city has been discharging into the Bronx River have been compelled to arrange connections with the Bronx Valley sewer.

**To Increase Kings County Democratic Committee.**  
The Democratic county committee in Brooklyn will hold a special meeting on Tuesday evening to pass on the new rules drafted by the rules committee. The most important feature of the rules will be to increase the membership of the county committee to nearly 2,000, thus necessitating the taking of votes by Assembly districts.  
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